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January 23, 2023

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

The Port of Tacoma is writing in support of the Puyallup Tribe of Indian's request to place their last remaining parcel of real estate on the east side of the Blair Waterway into federal trust status. This action would combine two adjoining parcels that have already been placed into federal trust status and supports their efforts to utilize its property more fully on the Tacoma Tideflats. The Port of Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians jointly own critical seaport real estate along the Blair Waterway in Tacoma's harbor and have a decades long history of cooperation that hinges around the Puyallup Land Claims Settlement of 1988.

The Puyallup Tribe is a key partner of the Port of Tacoma to deliver on economic vitality, community and workforce development and environmental restoration. Conversion of these properties into federal trust is a logical step in the process to enhancing economic development opportunities for the Tribe. The Port maintains positive discussions with the Tribe on ways to collaborate on seaport planning and operations to maximize the benefit to both parties.

The Port of Tacoma will continue its collaboration with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians as it furthers its strategic economic development goals and looks forward to having regular and ongoing communications to support our mutual interests. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Port of Tacoma Commission President at dkeller@portoftacoma.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deanna M. Keller".

Deanna M. Keller, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

cc: The Honorable Council Chairman Bill Sterud
Puyallup Tribal Council
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Governor Jay Inslee
Mayor Victoria Woodards
Port of Tacoma Commissioners
The Northwest Seaport Alliance CEO, John Wolfe
The Northwest Seaport Alliance Co-Chair, Sam Cho